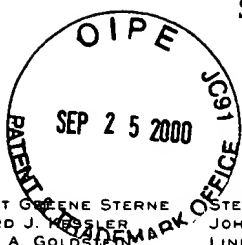


GP 3082



**STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 600

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

www.skgf.com

PHONE: (202) 371-2600 FACSIMILE: (202) 371-2540

ROBERT GENE STERNE  
EDWARD J. KESSLER  
JORGE A. GOLDSTEIN  
SAMUEL L. FOX  
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL  
ROBERT W. ESMOND  
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN  
MICHELE A. CIMBALA  
MICHAEL B. RAY  
ROBERT E. SOKOHL  
ERIC K. STEFFE  
MICHAEL O. LEE

STEVEN R. LUDWIG  
JOHN M. COVERT\*  
LINDA E. ALCORN  
RAZ E. FLESHNER  
ROBERT C. MILLONIG  
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER  
JUDITH U. KIM  
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.  
DONALD R. MCPHAIL  
PATRICK E. GARRETT  
STEPHEN G. WHITESIDE  
JEFFREY T. HELVEY\*

HEIDI L. KRAUS  
JEFFREY R. KURIN  
RAYMOND MILLIEN  
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN  
LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY  
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES\*  
EDWARD W. YEE  
ALBERT L. FERRO\*  
DONALD R. BANOWIT  
PETER A. JACKMAN  
MOLLY A. MCCALL  
TERESA U. MEDLER

JEFFREY S. WEAVER  
KRISTIN K. VIDOVICH  
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON  
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE  
GRANT E. REED  
VINCENT L. CAPUANO  
JOHN A. HARROUN\*  
MATTHEW M. CATLETT\*  
NATHAN K. KELLEY\*  
ALBERT J. FASULO II\*  
W. BRIAN EDGE\*

KAREN R. MARKOWICZ\*\*  
SUZANNE E. ZISKA\*\*  
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO\*\*  
ANDREA J. KAMAGE\*\*  
NANCY J. LEITH\*\*  
TARJA H. NAUKKARINEN\*\*

\*BAR OTHER THAN D.C.  
\*\*REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS

September 25, 2000

**WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:**

(202) 371-2660

**INTERNET ADDRESS:**

TDURKIN@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Group Art Unit: 3682**  
**Examiner: D. Depumpo**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/474,127; Filed: December 29, 1999  
For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**  
Inventors: Okada *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0666.023000E/TGD/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Restriction and Election of Species Requirements;
2. Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment; and
3. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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TC 3600 MAIL ROOM

Commissioner for Patents  
September 25, 2000  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,831

Enclosures

TGD/ALF:vrh  
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#6/ Election  
w/suppc

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Okada *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/474,127

Filed: December 29, 1999

For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**

Art Unit: 3682

Examiner: D. Depumpo

Atty. Docket: 0666.023000E/TGD/ALF

**Reply To Restriction and Election of Species Requirements**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated August 23, 2000, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claim 7. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. This election is made without traverse.

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species A of the check valve arrangement, represented by Figs. 1-6, and Species 3 of the center section, represented by Figs. 14-16. This election is made without traverse. Claims 7-12 all read on the elected species and are also generic claims.

Applicants are filing herewith a Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment canceling claims 8-12 and adding new claim 13. New claim 13 depends from independent claim 7. New claim 13 corresponds to the elected invention and reads on the elected species.

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It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,831

Date: September 25, 2000

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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